Indian Express account in London

*224. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Indian Express (Bombay) Private Limited had opened a foreign exchange account in London for depositing the sale proceeds of newspapers and periodicals and if so, the ammount repatriated by the Company, on date; and

(b) if so, whether the Company has complied with the various FERA Regulations in regard to this account and if not, what action has been taken so far against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Limited were permitted by Reserve Bank of India in July, 1984 to open a Sterling Account with the State Bank of India, London, for crediting collections from advertisement receipts and sale proceeds of publications of the Company and their subsidiaries. The account opened with the State Bank of India, London is a deposit account and the outstanding balance in this account as on 11.12.86 was £17,334.42. Reserve Bank of India has reported that the Company had advised State Bank of India Branch in London to remit the amount to the Company's account of SBI, Bombay, from time to time. However, no remittance was made and the amount has remained with SBI, London. According to the statement of accounts of SBI submitted by the Company to RBI, there have been no withdrawals by the Company. The Company has again instructed SBI, London, to remit the amount outstanding to SBI, Bombay. This has since been done.

Nationalisation of the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited

*226: SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to nationalise the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited; and

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ban on recruitment in Government Services

*228. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ban imposed on recruitment in Government services since 1982 still continues;

(b) if so, what is the total reduction in Government establishment year-wise as a result of this ban; and

(c) whether Government intend to lift this ban and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (c) No ban on recruitment in Government service was as such imposed in 1982. However, as a part of anti-inflationary measures, the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India were advised in January, 1984 not to fill up existing vacancies.

The Government have modified the guidelines regarding filling up of vacancies in May 1986. According to the revised guidelines, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions, vacancies both Plan and non-Plan arising due to promotion, reitrement, death; resignation, dismissal, removal or deputation etc., can now be filled up.

(b) The information is not centrally available nor is it practicable to collect the same within a reasonable time.

Commuted pensions to employees

*231. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on December 9, 1986 the Supreme Court had decreed that the commuted portion of pensions would be restored and full pension would be given after 15 years of retirement to all Civil and Defence and State Government employees and that pensions would be restored from April 1, 1985 and also that pensioners would be entitled for arrears from that date.

(b) whether the judgement was to be implemented within three months; and

(c) if so, the progress made so far in its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The judgement covers only the Central Government pensioners; it is not applicable to State Government employees.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The judgement has since been implemented and an order has been issued to that effect on 5-3-87.

Foreign currency reserves

*233. SHRI THANGABAALU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign currency reserves excluding gold and the holding of Special Drawing Rights, have shown a declining trend;

(b) if so, the extent thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) increased from Rs. 4265 crores as on 31-3-1983 to Rs. 7384 crores as on 31-3-1986. During the year 1986-87, reserves initially declined to Rs. 6478 crores as on 31-7-1986, but subsequently they have gone upto Rs. 6964 crores as on 28-2-1987. The balance of payments data with the details of individual factors affecting movements in foreign exchange reserves during the year 1986-87 are not yet available.

Production of equipment of PBX

†*234 SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the equipment of Private Branch Exchanges (PBXs) is being produced in the country;

(b) what are the names of companies which have been licensed to manufacture PBXs based on indigenous technology for the development of telematics;

(c) what are the names of the companies licensed to manufacture PBXs so far based on imported technology and what are the names of

†Previously Starred Question 114, transferred from the 4th March, 1987.